



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601**

**ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH  
GOVERNOR**

October 15, 2005

Dear Max:

July 12, 2005 was a historic day in Illinois when we finalized the state's initiative to provide funding for stem cell research, but it was also the important day that I met you and your mother, Ilyce. The personal time that I spent with you strengthens my resolve to fight for stem cell research in Illinois in order to help afflicted children and adults everywhere. You are an inspiration to me and the leaders of Illinois to fight adversity and ensure the continued progress of scientific medicine towards a cure.

Because of this new Executive Order, Illinois is now one of the nation's leaders in providing public funding for stem cell research. Since the federal government has chosen to stall the medical advancements that will come with this innovative, scientific process, it is up to the states to take action and your support makes me confident that we have made the right choice. I am glad you were able to be a part of that historic event. I am privileged that you have decided to include me in your 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Canavan Charity Ball.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor